WC 05-375

EARLY, LENNON, CROCKER & BARTOSIEWICZ, P.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

900 COMERICA BUILDING KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007-4752 TELEPHONE (269) 381-8844 FACSIMILE (269) 381-8822

FCC/MELLON

SEP 0 2 2005

GEORGE H. LENNON DAVID G. CROCKER MICHAEL D. O'CONNOR HAROLD E. FISCHER, JR. LAWRENCE M. BRENTON GORDON C. MILLER GARY P. BARTOSIEWICZ BLAKE D. CROCKER ROBERT M. TAYLOR RON W. KIMBREL PATRICK D. CROCKER RUSSELL B. BAUGH ANDREW J. VORBRICH TYREN R. CUDNEY STEVEN M. BROWN KRISTEN L. GETTING OF COUNSEL JOHN T. PETERS, JR.

THOMPSON BENNETT (1912 - 2004) VINCENT T. EARLY (1922 - 2001) JOSEPH J. BURGIE (1926 - 1992)

August 30, 2005

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Wireline Competition Bureau – CPD – 214 Appls PO Box 358145 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5115

RE: Joint Application of IFBA Acquisition Company, LLC d/b/a Farm Bureau Connection and American Farm Bureau, Inc. for Authority pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, to Transfer the Local and Interexchange Customer Base of an Authorized Domestic

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, enclosed for filing with the Commission, please find an original and six (6) copies of an application for Commission approval to complete a transfer of assets of an authorized international and domestic interstate carrier, a completed Fee Processing Form, and a check in the amount of \$895.00 to cover filing fees related to same.

In addition, enclosed is a copy of this letter. Please date-stamp the duplicate and return it to me in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

EARLY, LENNON, CROCKER & BARTOSIEWICZ, P.L.C.

Patrick D. Crocker

PDC/tl\

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)
IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC, d/b/a Farm)
Bureau Connection and American Farm	j ,
Bureau, Inc. for Authority pursuant to Section) File No.
214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as)
Amended, to Transfer the Local and)
Interexchange Customer Base of an)
Authorized Domestic Carrier	j

APPLICATION

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC, d/b/a Farm Bureau Connection ("IBFA" or "Transferee") and American Farm Bureau, Inc. ("AFB" or "Transferor") (together "Applicants"), pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Section 214, and Section 63.04(a) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 63.04(a), hereby request authority to enable IBFA to acquire certain telecommunications assets, including the subscriber base, of AFB. The proposed transaction will not result in a loss or impairment of service to AFB local and long distance customers that would be affected by the proposed transaction. This application is therefore submitted as a transfer of control pursuant to Section 63.04 of the Commission's rules. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants request the FCC grant such approval on or before October 15, 2005.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION

IBFA is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Michigan. IBFA is authorized under Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to provide domestic interstate and international telecommunications service and is currently authorized to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in 36 jurisdictions, with local exchange authority in six of those states. Former employees and managers of AFB who operated the Farm Bureau Connection program for AFB formed IBFA.

AFB is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois. AFB is authorized under Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to provide domestic interstate and international telecommunications service. AFB has authority to provide intrastate, interexchange telecommunications services in 39 states and is authorized to provide competitive local exchange services in 13 states. Subject to regulatory approval, and in connection with the transaction described herein, AFB is voluntarily terminating its authorizations to provide telecommunications services.

Applicants have entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement whereby IBFA will acquire AFB's entire local and long distance customer base. As a result of the transaction, IBFA will become the local exchange and long distance provider of the transferred customer base and AFB will cease providing local exchange and long distance services. The proposed transfer is subject to certain state required notifications and/or approvals.

Applicants emphasize that the transition of AFB's local exchange and long distance customers will be seamless and virtually transparent to the affected customers. Following the customer base transfer, IBFA will provide local exchange and long distance service, under the same rates, terms and conditions as the customers currently receive from AFB. AFB's customers will not incur any charges as a result of the change in local and long distance service provider from AFB to IBFA.

In accordance with state and Commission rules, Applicants have provided written notice to affected AFB customers informing them of the proposed transaction. Service to these customers will not be transferred until the requisite regulatory approvals have been obtained. In addition, IBFA has filed with the Commission the notice and certification required by Section 64.1120(e) of the Commission's rules. Applicants seek to consummate the proposed transaction on an expedited basis so that IBFA may integrate the remaining acquired customers into its existing business and thereby expand its presence in the local exchange and long distance market.

III. INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 63.04

In support of this Application, Applicants provide the following summary information pursuant to §63.04 of the Commission's rules:

(a) Contact Information

Transferor: American Farm Bureau, Inc.

600 Maryland Avenue SW, Suite 800

Washington DC 20024

Telephone: (202) 263-3279 Facsimile: (202) 263-5279 FRN: 0000024331

Transferee: IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC, d/b/a Farm Bureau Connection

1850 Howard Street, Unit C Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 Telephone: (847) 685-8600 Facsimile: (847) 685-8687 FRN: 0013342373

(b) State of Organization

Transferor: AFB is organized under the laws of the state of Illinois

Transferee: IBFA is organized under the laws of the state of Michigan.

(c) Contact persons for this Application

Questions concerning this application may be directed to:

Please direct any questions concerning IBFA to:

Patrick D. Crocker

Early, Lennon, Crocker & Bartosiewicz, P.L.C.

151 South Rose Street, Suite 900

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Telephone: (269) 381-8844 Facsimile: (269) 381-8822

E-mail: pcrocker@earlylennon.com

Please direct any questions concerning AFB to:

Julian Gehman

Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP

1909 K Street, NW

Washington DC 20006-1101 Telephone: (202) 263-3279 Facsimile: (202) 263-5279

E-mail: igehman@mayerbrownrowe.com

(d) Equity Ownership

Name: Casimir Wojciechowski

Address: 1850 Howard Street, Unit C

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Citizenship: U.S.

Principal Business: Telecommunications Provider

% Equity: 50%

Name: James Grabowski

Address: 1850 Howard Street, Unit C

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Citizenship: U.S.

Principal Business: Telecommunications Provider

% Equity: 25%

Name: Kathleen Grabowski

Address: 1850 Howard Street, Unit C

Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Citizenship: U.S.

Principal Business: Telecommunications Provider

% Equity: 25%

No other person or entity, either directly or indirectly, owns ten percent (10%) or more of the equity of IBFA.

(e) Certification

IBFA and AFB each certify pursuant to Sections 1.2001 through 1.2003 of the Commission's rules that no party to this Application is subject to a denial of Federal benefits, as provided in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, 21 U.S.C. §330 1.

(f) Description of the Transaction

Please see Section II of this Application.

(g) Geographic Areas Served

IBFA is in the process of obtaining authority to provide interexchange and/or local exchange telecommunications services throughout the United States and currently has authority to provide intrastate interexchange service in 36 jurisdictions, with local exchange authority in six of those states.

(h) Streamlined Treatment

Applicants submit that the proposed transaction would result in IBFA's market share in the local exchange and long distance market of substantially less than ten percent. Neither applicant is dominant with respect to any service. Therefore, this Application presumptively qualifies for streamlined processing pursuant to Section 63.03(b)(2)(i) of the Commission's rules.

(i) Related FCC applications

None.

(j) Special Consideration

None.

(k) Waiver Requests

Applicants have not filed any waiver requests in conjunction with the proposed transaction.

(I) Public Interest Considerations

The proposed transaction will serve the public interest by ensuring no interruption of service or inconvenience to the affected customers, and the affected customers will receive the same local service and long distance rates backed by the support services of IBFA, a growing and highly competitive carrier. Because IBFA will provide local exchange and long distance service to AFB's customers at the same rates, terms and conditions of service as they currently receive from AFB, the transaction will be virtually transparent to AFB local and long distance customers in terms of the service they receive. Moreover, as set forth above, IBFA has provided written notice of the proposed transaction to ensure that AFB customers will understand how the proposed change in service providers will affect them.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the public interest, convenience, and necessity would be furthered by a grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:

Patrick D. Crocker, Secretary IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC

Dated: $\sqrt{-(9/0)}$, 20

Bv:

Julan P. Gehman

American Farm Bureau, Inc.

Dated: <u>8-29-2005</u>, 2005

VERIFICATION

I, Julian P. Gehman, attorney for American Farm Bureau, Inc., am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. I do hereby verify that I have read the foregoing Application and the statements made therein are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on the 29th day of August 2005.

American Farm Bureau, Inc.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 200 day of And

Notary Public:

TONIE R. DAVIS, III
Notary Public of District of Columbia
My Commission Expires October 31, 2007

VERIFICATION

I, Patrick D. Crocker, Secretary of IBFA Acquisition Company, LLC, am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. I do hereby verify that I have read the foregoing Application and the statements made therein are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on the 29th day of August 2005.

IBFA Management and Acquisition, LLC

Patrick D. Crocker, Secretary

Subscribed and sworn before me this 29th day of August 2005.

Notary Public: Susan E. Ritchie Commission Expires: 08/14/10

Cass Acting in Kalamazoo County, Michigan